

Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

FOUNDED 1980 AS AMES HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

Newsletter to Members 2006 WINTER ... ISSUE #1/4

The mission of the Ames Historical Society is to preserve local history and illuminate its stories.



330 Main in Ames was originally the Morris Livery. It was built in 1909, an up to date service to equal the Sheldon-Munn Hotel, then in the planning stages. It is the only Main Street building with a peaked roof. Big Table Books currently occupies the west part of 330 Main.

Ames Historical Society Board:

President Kathy Svec
Vice-President Janet Jepeway
Secretary Amy Swenson
Treasurer Ken Cameron

Members:

Roger Coulson, Dennis Wendell, Margaret Elbert Benson, Carole Jensen, Amy Swenson, Dottie Tschopp McGee, Cynthia Bennet, Peggy Baer

The Board meets the second Monday of each month at City Hall.

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in state and local history through publications, programs, exhibitions and operation of an archive and historic site.

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The newsletter is published four times a year for AHS members. Comments & questions may be directed to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above.

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18th and Burnett, Ames, IA. Open April 1 through October 31.

Save This Date: 2006 AHS Annual Meeting Sat. Feb. 11, 10am, at Ames Public Library Hear the 1940s-1950s Ames Stories of Steve Grooms!

The Society's annual meeting will feature lively Ames stories by writer, Steve Grooms. Grooms' reminiscences will be read by retired ISU Theatre faculty member, M. Burton Drexler. The combination of late 50's small-boy memories and Drexler's fine reader's theater style will make a delightful morning's program on Saturday, February 11th at 10am, Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas, Ames. The Society welcomes its members and anyone who would like to attend.

About Steve Grooms

Steve Grooms is a "native son made good." He is the author of 13 books and a multitude of articles for sporting and conservation magazines. Steve was born in Ames in 1942 and lived here almost continuously until he graduated from Ames High School in 1960. (During World War II, the Grooms family lived in Manchester, Iowa while their father was in the Army.) Shortly after Steve's high school graduation, the family moved to the Twin Cities area.

In Ames, he lived at 1006 Carroll (1946-50), 822 Douglas (1950-55) and 702 Brookridge (1955-60). Steve's father worked at Collegiate Manufacturing, where he designed stuffed toy animals and school mascot emblems.

Steve received his B.A. from Grinnell College and an M.A. from the University of Minnesota where he also served as an administrator and writing teacher. He was the senior editor of a regional outdoor magazine, *Fins and Feathers*, from 1975-81. Most of the years since then have been spent as a freelance writer.

He serves on the editorial board of *International Wolf Magazine*. His award-winning book on wolves, *The Return of the Wolf*, is in its third edition. Ames residents will be delighted to learn that Steve has recently focused his considerable writing talents on committing his recollections of growing up in Ames to paper. The more he writes, the sharper his memory becomes!



Preview Story: Paper Route

"I was a paper boy. I think I must have had a route for about seven years. My first route was along my block when we lived at [822] Douglas. I would pedal my bike downtown to get my papers. My first assignment was to count the number in my bundle so I would be sure to have the right number. Then I'd slip them in a big canvas bag and jump back on the bicycle. I'd ride along throwing papers onto porches. My home was in the middle of my route. At the far end, I'd turn and head back home, although there was a tiny neighborhood grocery (one of those stores that was one big room, with high shelves and the grocer had a grabber thing for getting items off the high shelves). I had a fatal weakness for stopping at the grocery store at the north end of my route to have a Dolly Madison dessert cake (more or less in the family with Hostess cupcakes). The Dolly Madison was an oval cake with a depression on top that was filled with creamy stuff and a big pecan, and then (of course) the whole thing was drenched in chocolate. I couldn't resist them."





Along the Skunk:

2006 Winter Armchair Presentations

Location changed to Ames City Auditorium, downtown in Ames City Hall (facing Sixth Street). Programs begin at 7pm. \$1.00/person donation will assist with facility costs.

Tues. February 7, 7pm (a repeat of the Wed., Jan. 18 program)

Farming and Quarrying Along the Skunk River at Ada Hayden Heritage Park

Dennis Wendell, Curator for the Ames Historical Society and emeritus faculty member in special materials and principal cataloger at ISU's Parks Library, will highlight past human activity on the Jensen, Pasley, Eness, Stone Brooke, and Hallett lands, emphasizing farming and the fascinating sand and gravel operations. Visuals to be shown include artifacts, slides and a rare home video taken in 1988 of the Page dragline digging and "walking."

Wed. February 15, 7pm

Stalking the Skunk: Archaeological Investigations along the Skunk River

David Gradwohl, a retired professor of anthropology, was involved in 1971 and 1972 with the Iowa State University Archaeological Laboratory's surveys along the Skunk River north of Ames, in the area that was proposed for the construction of the Ames Reservoir. These investigations, undertaken via cooperative agreements with the National Park Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, yielded evidence of a long sequence of human occupation in the valley, stemming from ancient Native American campsites and quarries to early Euro-American pioneer farmsteads, industrial sites, and cemeteries.

Wed. March 22, 7pm

Family Memories Become Community Stories:



The Carr Family & Carr's Pool

Kathy Svec, Ames Historical Society president, will relate the remarkable story of a unique Ames family, Emmet and Alpha Carr, and highlight their best-known ventures - raising over 80 foster children and building the first public swimming pool in Ames near the banks of the Skunk River.

Wed. April 19, 7pm

Lake Comar Stories

Kay Munsen, the author of "Lake Comar," will present stories, many first-hand, about this former recreation area once located near Story City. Lake Comar offered a park, outdoor auditorium, swimming and boating area, and many special events that attracted area residents up to the 1940s. Munsen will track Comar's beginnings, heyday and its passing from the scene.



Sponsored by: Skunk River Paddlers, Ames Historical Society, Story County Conservation Board, Ames Public Library

Benefit at Big Table Books

A benefit night was held on Thursday, December 8 at Big Table Books, 330 Main Street in Ames. From 5 to 8pm, a percentage of sales was designated for The Society. We were pleased to receive a check for \$243, and sincerely thank all AHS members and area residents who shopped at Big Table that night!

Ted Kooser Day is Sat., April 8

The Historic Old Town Neighborhood is the lead organizer for a day celebrating US Poet Laureate and Ames native, Ted Kooser. The H.O.T. neighborhood is developing a walking tour that notes his boyhood home and school and other key spots that figured in the lives of the Kooser family. Kooser has accepted Old Town's invitation to come for the day. A reading and book signing is planned. More details to come!

New Host for our Website

About the time that Society members received the last newsletter prominently featuring our ever-expanding website, the system faltered, preventing many curious browsers from being able to log on. What timing! We have now successfully transferred our site to a new host with plenty of capacity and hope that users will no longer experience frustrating delays. We ask anyone who experiences problems to be sure to let us know. Each week, more material is added, so there is always something new to see online

Good Season at Hoggatt School

The 2005 season at Hoggatt School provided fun experiences to many individuals and groups during special tours and regular open hours.

Regular open hours on Saturdays and Sundays in June, July and August hosted 97 visitors, including one day with 50 attendees!

Special tours were requested by Meeker School 5th grade, Mitchell School 1st grade, St. Cecelia School 1st grade, Sawyer School 3rd grade, a 1st grade Brownie troop from Gilbert, a Questers group and a group from Mainstream Living. These tours hosted 173 people.

Very special thanks to all our volunteer Hoggatt docents: Carole Jensen, Julie Jorstad, Roger Coulson, Dottie McGee, Burt Drexler, Ellie Vandeventer, Maureen Friedrich, Don Faas, Janice Olson, Rupert and Carmen Kenyon, Bruce Kellogg, Charlotte Konopa, Peggy Gurau and Jim Graham.

Society Staffing

The Society is pleased to have the services of several part time staff members. Their compensation is funded by memberships and the Union Pacific Foundation grant the Society received several years ago. As the Society's collection grows and the number of requests for information increases, we hope to increase their hours to better serve our members and the public – given the ongoing support of our members, of course!

Here is our staff:

Dennis Wendell, Curator - *handles collection acquisitions, cataloguing and contributes to website*
Alan Sponhemier, Administrator/Webmaster - *maintains and creates new content for website; as of January 2006, Alan will handle the membership records and renewal process and other general administrative duties for AHS*

Alice Mellen, Curatorial Assistant - *processes acquisitions to the collection, inputs data into computer registry system, maintains open hours*

Colleen Hamilton, Grant Writer – *researches grant opportunities and writes applications*

A List of Dreamers: Thanks to All Our Building Fund Donors!

We would like to recognize and thank all our Building Fund donors to date. This encouragement and support gives us confidence as we pursue a permanent museum site! The fund now stands at \$15,689. **Our donors:**

Anonymous donor, Margaret Mae Gross, Janet Jepeway, Jorgen & Martha Rasmussen, Kathy Svec, Lynn & Jerry Jenison, Carole & Harold Jensen, Dennis Wendell, Peggy & Roger Baer, Rollie & Willie Struss, Janice Burkhart, Jeff Benson & Margaret Elbert, George & Marlys Ladd, Fred & Darlene Walker, M. Burton Drexler, M. A. Ukena, Robert & Harriet Shearer, Leo & Bernadette Lawlor, Frances Roberg, Reiny & Maureen Friedrich, Josephine Hicks, Bob & Lois Vohs, Ken Cameron & Betty Baird, Elizabeth Dahm, Marna Stevens, Erv & Janet Klaas, Donna Carr, Edna & Harry Svec, Howard McMinnimee, Marie Johnson, Gloria & Debbie Erickson, Bob & Ginny Stafford, Steve Madsen, Terry Adams, Gary & Rhea Mulhall, Amy Heaven.

The Society's Wish List:

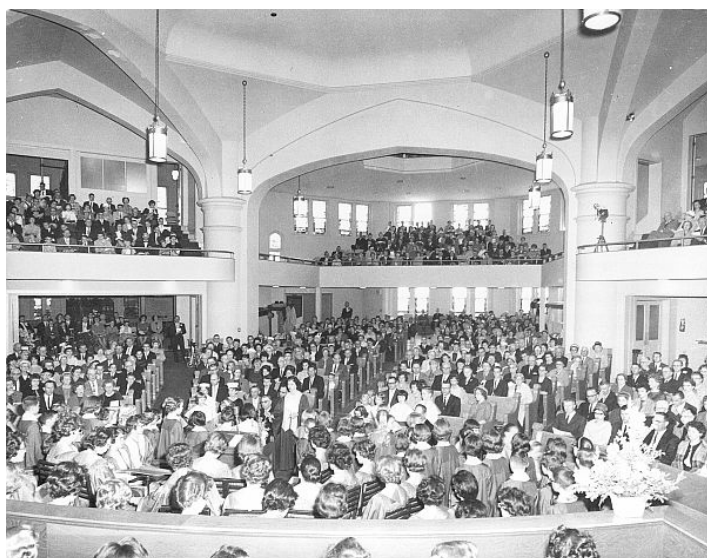
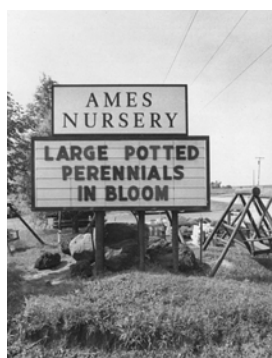
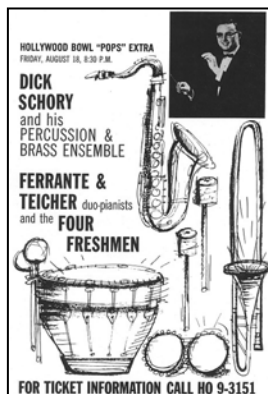
- Contributions specifically for heavy duty shelving for collections
- PhotoShop software for PC

The Curator's Column by Dennis Wendell

Donations to the Collection

Highlights of gifts received October-December:

- **Dick Schory** record albums, CDs, photos, programs and bios [Dick Schory]
- **Central Junior High School** yearbooks - Mary Sterling collection [Joan Herwig]
- **Violin** played by Alice Hallowell Johnson at Ames Public Library, Lake Comar and area events in the early 20th century [Dorothy Johnson Shepard]
- **Collegiate Mfg. Co.** pennants, emblems, **Koffee Klatsch** register, oil portrait of Chev Adams [Nancy Adams]
- **Ames Nursery** artifacts, clippings, photos, and color slides [Phil Cafferty]
- **Ames women's movement** records of the 1970s (NOW, Ames Women's Theatre, Women's Political Caucus) [Janet Jepeway]
- **Design Collaborative** drawings, construction plans, concept ideas, design notes [D. Dahlquist]
- Mayor **Stuart Smith's** papers [Mary Hanger]
- Stamping machine from **Ames Stationers**, photos of floods and rallies [Dennis Wendell]



- **First United Methodist Church** anniversary programs, membership directories, photos

Volunteer and Staff Activities

Jerry Litzel and **Terry Adams** – have been tracking down obituaries and other records relating to the Ames Mayors Project.

Martha Rasmussen – is entering names into the Ames Tribune “mug shot” database and nearing the end of the alphabet,

Janet Jepeway – is organizing the six boxes of Ames women's movement records that she donated.

Alice Mellen – has prepared inventories for a number of incoming collections, handled reference questions, and indexed the 2005 accessions list.

Alan Spohnheimer - Enhanced digital scans of six historic photos from the Bert and Mary Adams Collection relating to the creation of the Grant Wood murals in Parks Library and provided them to the Brunner Art Museum. Continued to add a large number of images and text to our website. Significantly, he oversaw the transparent migration to a new server.

Curator Interactions

The curator and assistant curator attended the 29th annual meeting and conference of the **Iowa Museum Association** (IMA) held at the State Historical Society of Iowa on October 10th and 11th. Sessions attended were Visual Learning Strategies, Development and Marketing, Archives 102, Traveling Trunks, and Programming for Schools. Important personal contacts were made with peers around the state.

On December 14th the curator represented AHS at the annual Story County Board of Supervisors Funding Meeting with all county historical groups receiving allocations. The meeting was held in Nevada's restored Dyer-Dowell Victorian House. A report was presented on how we spent our \$2000 on curatorial needs and leveraging an HRDP grant for Ames Tribune photo preservation. In the Christmas spirit, artifacts and archival materials lacking an Ames connection were transferred to sister historical societies in the county on behalf of local collectors and donors.

Special Note of Thanks

AHS has been fortunate to have the services of D. Joe Anderson, who donated his technical expertise and the use of his personal equipment to host our website for the critical first 18 months of its existence. His efforts helped change our dream for a web presence into an actual online museum. Hats off to you, Joe!

Joe Anderson is a member of an association of people interested in the community-building aspects of technology, the Ames Community Network.

2005 Overview & Summary by Curator Dennis Wendell

Volunteer Activities

Collectively, volunteers contributed over 1200 hours to keep AHS functioning. Specific individuals and accomplishments include:

John Rose – continued to provide e-mail forwarding and funding of our website domain name.

Joe Anderson – generously provided a server for our website until we finally outgrew his resources at the end of the year.

Stacey Ross – abstracted 25 years of meeting minutes of the Emanon Club.

Martha Rasmussen – entered 200+ names each week into the Ames Tribune “mug shot” database. That index now stands at almost 4,000 entries.

Washington A.M.E.S. 4-H Club – polished sterling silver and washed glassware until it sparkled; items to be sold at a fund-raising auction to be held next spring.

Alice Mellen – has sorted and logged hundreds of negatives from the late 1940s and early 1950s in the Ames Tribune Photo Archive. Her volunteer hours are credited as a matching donation to the HRDP grant.

Donations to the Collection

A record number of donations was received in 2005 (116 to be exact). Gifts ranged in extent from a single item – such as a rare post card of Billy Sunday, to the thousands of items in the Mary Adams bequest. It has become our custom at year’s end to list all donors and express our heartfelt thanks for their part in preserving evidence of Ames history.

DONORS OF HISTORICAL ITEMS:

John F. Adams
Mary E. Adams
Nancy Adams
Lucille Agard
Cynthia Avalos
Darryl Bennett
Chuck Benson
Royce Bitzer
Betty Blagen
Ruth Boast
Farwell Brown
Pat Brown
Bob & Ann Buck
Glen Buseman
Phil Cafferty
Ken Cameron
Lynn Christian
City of Ames
Donna Cole
Collegiate United
Methodist Church
Roger Coulson
David Dahlquist
Lynell Dougherty

Dee Dreeszen
William Duffy
Barbara Egemo
Robert Egemo
Margaret Elbert
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First United Methodist
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Ruth Grabau
Barbara Greenlaw
Mary Hanger
Mike Henson
Joan Herwig
Collin Hobert
Janet McNeil
Hurlbert
ISU Memorial Union
Janet Jepeway
Kären Smedal John
Mary Jurenka

Staff Activities

Alice Mellen – has been hosting open hours, 1-5pm, Wednesdays through Fridays at Society headquarters, admirably fielding reference questions and directing patrons to appropriate resources. In slack periods, she entered data into the architectural drawing database, inventoried incoming collections, and indexed the 2005 accessions list.

Sara Vouthilak – has processed collections and entered cataloging data into the PastPerfect database of negatives comprising the Ames Tribune Photo Archive.

Alan Spohnheimer – as webmaster has more than doubled the size of the website, skillfully adding hundreds of images and many pages of text. He has also taken digital photos and scanned images.

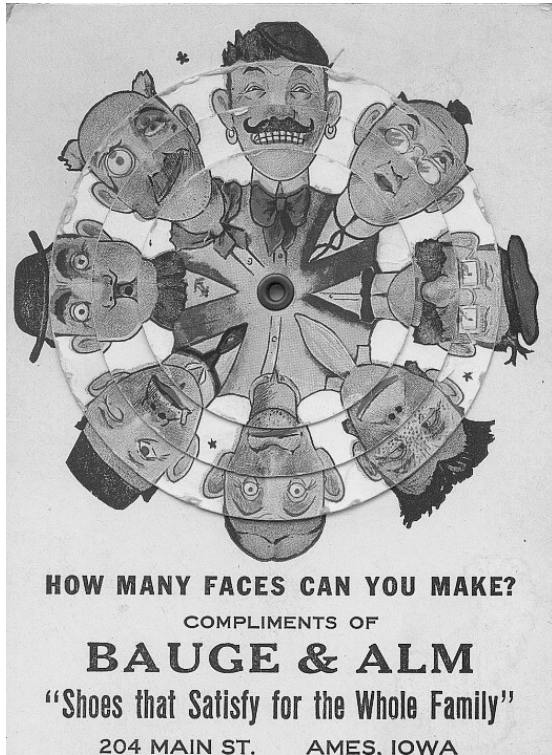
HRDP Grant for the Ames Tribune Photo Archive

A State of Iowa Historic Resource Development Program (HRDP) grant for 2004-05 is helping to fund the processing of The Ames Tribune photo archive. Notably, the grant funded the purchase of a sophisticated Microtek 9800XL scanner that can process negative images in the positive, greatly aiding in the identification of the images. This tool has a lighted lid that allows light to pass through transparent materials so they can be “read” by the machine. The scanner has its own high capacity server so that a great number of images can be stored.

Bruce Kellogg
Patricia Knight
Betty Lartius
Jerry Litzel
Art Mann
Pauline Martin
Ruth Matson
Alice Mellen
Mary Garner Metzger
Jane Milleman
Jim Moore
Linda Morris
Paul Nichols
Ann Olson
Sherry O’Neel-
DeZapata
Dwain Peterson
Genevieve Pyle
Grant Quam
Richard Roche
Stacey Ross
Bernice Rouze
Janice Samuelson
Stephani Scherbart

Linda Schill
Richard Schory
Bob & Dorothy
Schumer
Roger & Carol Shannon
Dorothy Shepard
Karsten Smedal
John Snyder
Scott Sorem
Alan Spohnheimer
Edna & Harry Svec
Kathy Svec
Andy Tang
Alice Thompson
Bill & Mary Toms
Roger Volker
Thelma Walker
Washington Royals 4-H
Club
Dennis Wendell
Marcia Whitmer

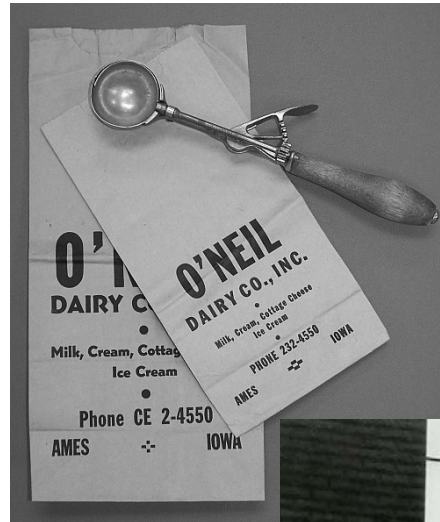
A Few Selections from the Society's Collection



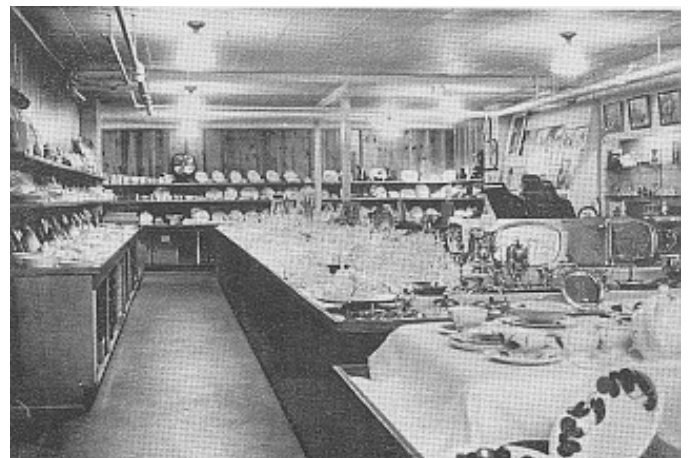
This advertising card with a face-changing wheel to spin was given away at the Bauge and Alm shoe store. The store used to stand in the space that is now Cynthia Duff Plaza, the walk-through at Main and Douglas. The Bauge of the shoe store was a descendant of the Bauge family whose log home was restored by AHS.



Frangos Restaurant was established in 1941 at 210 Main Street by Peter H. Frangos who bought out his partner at the Dairy Lunch and renamed it *Frangos Restaurant*. As an immigrant from his native Greece, Mr. Frangos had acquired restaurant experience in Omaha before operating restaurants in Council Bluffs, Eagle Grove and Fort Dodge. Frangos offered a complete soda fountain and made their own ice cream.



O'Neil's Dairy made premium ice cream, with butterfat content as high as 6 to 7%. *It melted in your mouth and clung to your lips!* The scoop was a way to exercise some degree of portion control when serving ice cream. This one was used for a 5-cent ice cream cone that consisted of one scoop. The O'Neil Dairy building (ca 1940, formerly the Ames Armory) was just south of The Tribune building on Fifth Street. Its truck boasts "Velvet Ice Cream" on the side. (artifacts - AHS; photo - F. T. Brown Photographic Archive)



Carr Hardware's large giftware department was in the basement of the store. Customers were provided with an immense selection of dinnerware, glassware and gift items. Carr's was located at 304 Main.

**The Ames Historical Society prizes its assets - our artifact collection and our "membership collection"!
We extend our sincere thanks to all our 2005 supporters! We couldn't do it without you.**

Patron

Josephine Hicks
Bob/Ginny Stafford

Life Member

Elden Bauge
Vivian Brown

Sustaining

Terry & Helene Adams
Jack & Barb Adams
Architects Rudi-Lee-
Dreyer & Assoc.
Peggy & Roger Baer
Ken Cameron &
Elizabeth Baird
Vi Baker
Tom & Molly Boast
Robert Bourne
Joyce & Rodney Brink
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Bonny & Ray Callahan
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Bill & Phyllis Enquist
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Olive Harrison
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Janet Klaas
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Leo Lawlor
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Dorothy & Tom McGee
Klaus Ruedenberg
Jerry & JoAnn Sell
Rollie & Willie Struss
Katherine Svec
Lois & Bob Vohs
Roy & Bobbie Warman
Dennis & Ellen Willadsen
Sharon & Donald Wirth

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Margaret & James Buck
Stewart Burger
Janice Burkhart

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Biggs
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Farwell & Ruth Brown
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Linda Just
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Leonard/Mary Jo Larsen
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Sandra/George McJimsey
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Lotus & Wilmer Miller
Richard/Maxine Morrison
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Coleen & John Nutty
Jim & Frankée Oleson
Delores Prior
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Robert & Harriet
Ringgenberg
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Susan & Phil Sargent
John & Suzan Shierholz
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Lyle & Marilyn Stoops
Joanne & Ted Tedesco
Jimmie/Nancy Thompson
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Marvin & Janice Walter
Mark & Sherry
Widrechner-Dragula
Richard & Joy Williams
Don & Kay Zytowski

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Elmer Aurand
Harlan Baker
Mary Ann Barnes
Judy Bauge
Don Beitz
John Belcher
Conrad Berhow
Blacks Heritage Farm
Charles Boast
Ruth Boast

Arlin Branhagen
Harry Brearley
Doris (Plagge) Burton
Glen Buseman
Charlene Caldwell
Donna Carr
Robert Cassidy
Donna Cipolloni
Bob Cody
Kathy Connor
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Rev. Louise Dengler
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Daniel Konrady
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Thelma Miller
Gary Mulhall
Kevin Mungons
Janice Olson

Shellie Orngard
Carol Pletcher
Grant & Betty Quam
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Questers - Dane 207
Questors - Old Oaken
Bucket
Questors 1200
Herman Quirmbach
Martha & Jorgen
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Irene Swanson
Amy Swenson
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John van der Linden
Deborah Vance
Margaret Vance
Roger Volker
Roy Dale Voorhees
Anita Wald-Tuttle
Tom Walsh
John Welden
Dennis Wendell
John Tilden

Introductory

Robert Clark
Elizabeth Dahm
Gregory Glaser
Maxine Harms
Lyell Henry
Ken Kopecky
Margaret Litzel
Chris Moen
Greg Vitale and Flo
Hamrick
Iveta Zeliadt

New for 2006

Robert Olson
Carol Spachman

A Call for Your E-Mail Address!

A number of members have provided their e-mail addresses so that we have a quick way to keep in touch. If you would like notices about upcoming programs, special events and publications, include your e-address on your renewal form or send a note to us at ameshistorical@qwest.net. If your address has changed recently, be sure to send us an update.

About the Enclosed Brochure

We hope the brochure enclosed with this newsletter will stimulate your thinking about the many ways you can support and nurture a vital historic collection for our community and the facility that is needed to house and showcase it, both to residents and visitors!

Ames Historical Society Member Benefit

10% off collector's reference books at
ANTIQUÉ AMES, 202 Main, Ames
Offer good by showing this newsletter.

Ames Historical Society Member Benefit

10% off regularly priced books at
BIG TABLE BOOKS, 303 Main, Ames
Offer good to 5/1/06 by showing this newsletter.

Call for 2006 Renewals.

Membership renewals for 2006 are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment -- though we accept your dues payment at any time. You'll receive a notice from us by mail -- or you may check your label for your renewal date and membership level and use this form.

We are excited about our growing collections, our active website and our work toward a real facility. Your membership dollars make continued progress possible!

See the label on this newsletter for your anniversary date and the level at which you renewed or joined.

Name _____

Introductory - first year	\$10
Individual	\$25
Family	\$40
Friend	\$50
Sustaining	\$100
Benefactor	\$500
Patron	\$1,000

Additional amount for

Building Fund \$ _____
Operations Endowment \$ _____

Send to:

Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010

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